Fewer than 1% of 80-year-old widows and roughly 0.6% to 0.8% of widowers get remarried in any given year, making legal remarriage at this age exceptionally rare. However, looking at overall lifetime trends, data tracker Bowling Green State University's National Center for Family & Marriage Research (NCFMR) and historical sociological studies indicate that about **2% of older widows and up to 20% of older widowers** eventually remarry at some point later in life. Bowling Green State University +3

Annual Remarriage Rates (Ages 75+)

Because data is usually aggregated for the oldest demographics, the annual remarriage rates per 1,000 previously married individuals aged 75 and older highlight a stark gender gap: Bowling Green State University +1

- **Widows (Women)**: Only **1.5 per 1,000** (or **0.15%**) remarry annually.
- **Widowers (Men)**: **7.9 per 1,000** (or **0.79%**) remarry annually. Bowling Green State University +1

Why the Rates are So Low

- **The Gender Ratio Disparity**: Women have a longer life expectancy. By age 85, women outnumber men by roughly **4 to 1**. This leaves an incredibly small "marriage market" of available single men for elderly widows. Georgia Bulletin +2
- **Preference for Independence**: Studies from institutions like the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that older widows frequently prioritize maintaining their independence, protecting their existing estate for their children, and avoiding taking on late-life caretaking roles again. Census.gov +3
- **Companionship Over Marriage**: Many octogenarians choose **cohabitation or "Living Apart Together" (LAT)**. They enjoy romantic partnerships and companionship without the legal or financial complications of a marriage certificate. National Institutes of Health (.gov) +3